



Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality June.2000

O&M Newsletter

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators and associated persons

## Spring Exam Results

The results of the Spring exam are not back from ABC as of the date I'm writing this. As soon as the results come back and we verify the scores, we'll send out the "Congratulations" and "To bad so sad" letters. Please be patient... we'll get the results to you as soon as possible.

## Fall 2000 Exam

The Fall, 2000 Wastewater operator Certification Exam will be given on November 15, 2000 in the usual locations in Portland, Bangor and Presque Isle. The deadline for submitting an application to take the Fall exam is Monday, October 2, 2000. Please remember that original applications must be notarized.

*Dick Darling*

## For Practice

1. Your department uses 80 pounds of ammonia per day to supplement nutrients in you system. You must keep a 10 day supply of ammonia on hand at any one time. It takes 4 days to get a new supply. How low can your inventory get before you have to reorder?
  - a. 320 lbs.
  - b. 800 lbs.
  - c. 1120 lbs.
  - a. 2240 lbs.

2. How often should sludge be removed from the secondary clarifiers of an RBC treatment system?

- a. Several time per hour
- b. Several times per day
- c. Several times per week
- d. Several times per month

3. The most important part of a Treatment Plant Safety Program is:

- a. Publishing weekly safety newsletters.
- b. Having monthly safety committee meetings.
- c. Providing the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).
- d. Making sure every employee has a proper attitude about safety.

4. A composite test should be used for which of the following tests.

- a. pH
- b. Dissolved Oxygen
- c. Temperature
- e. Chemical Oxygen Demand

*Dick Darling*

## EPA QA Study # 20 Update

This is another in a series of monthly O&M News reminders regarding this study. It is intended only to identify the immediate deadlines participants are required to meet to assist them in fulfilling each requirements of this study as they come.

Permittees should have ordered their Chemistry QA samples from the NIST approved provider lab[s] of their choice by 6/5/2000. Toxicity samples should also have been ordered from NERL by this date. If these samples have not been ordered, please contact me ASAP.

The next Permittee steps are:

1. Insure that the samples are eventually received and analyzed by your own in-house lab and/or by any contract labs you use.
2. Your in-house lab and/or the contract lab[s] you use, should report their analytical results to you [ the Permittee ] **2 weeks before** the deadline set by your NIST provider lab for your final "Permittee Data Package" results report back to them. In any event, the **lab[s] must report their results to you no later than August 29, 2000.** Toxicity results also have to be reported to NERL by this date.
3. You need to send the "Permittee Data Package" **to your provider lab by the deadline set by that lab, but in any event, no later than September 15, 2000.** Also, **you need to send wet testing data to NERL by this date.** Informational copies of these reports are also sent to the State Coordinator.

Detailed directions on how labs should report their results data to you and on how to prepare the "Permittee Data Package" that you send to your provider lab for evaluation are described in detail in the original EPA Study Announcement packet you received. When the time comes near, I will restate these directions in an O&M News article.

If have questions regarding this study, please call me at 287-7659.

*David Dodge*

## UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

There have been no training courses scheduled for June-July. Check the next issue of the O&M News for newly scheduled training sessions.

### Answers to For Practice:

1. **c** 10 days X80 pounds /day = 800 pounds  
4 days reorder ti me X80 pounds /day = 320 pounds  
800 pounds +320 pounds = 1120 pounds
2. **b** Sludge should be removed from the secondary clari fiers several ti mes per day to prevent deni tri fi cati on from causi ng ri si ng sludge and effluent TS vi olati ons.
3. **d** The most i mportant part of a safety program i s proper employee atti tude. Every employee must be responsi ble for thei r own personal safety and the safety of other employees.
4. **d** A composi te sample, one made up of several small samples taken over ti me, should be used for the Chemi cal Oxygen Demand Test. All other tests menti oned are done on grab samples (pH) or i n the treatment tanks as the process i s worki ng (di ssolved oxygen and temperature).

*Dick Darling*